

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JAMAICA SIGNS SHIPPING PACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION

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SUMMARY:

1. JAMAICA AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE AGREED TO ACCORD EACH OTHER "MOST FAVORED NATION" STATUS IN THE AREA OF SHIPPING; TO GRANT NATIONAL TREATMENT TO EACH OTHERS VESSELS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS; AND TO SET UP A JOINT JAMAICA/USSR COMMISSION ON SHIPPING. END SUMMARY

2. A MARITIME AGREEMENT, CONCLUDED AFTER THREE DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS AND COMING INTO FORCE IMMEDIATELY, WAS NEGOTIATED BETWEEN MEMBERS OF A SIX-MAN TEAM FROM THE SOVIET UNION LED
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BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF THE MERCHANT MARINE A. V. GOLDOBENKO AND THE JAMAICAN NEGOTIATING TEAM LED BY MINISTER OF STATE FRANCIS TULLOCH.

3. THE MAJOR PROVISIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. BOTH PARTIES WILL GRANT EACH OTHER MOST FAVORED NATION

TREATMENT IN ALL MATTERS RELATING TO NAVIGATION. THE ANNOUNCEMENT INDICATED THAT THIS MEANT THAT JAMAICAN VESSELS WOULD ENJOY THE GREATEST BENEFITS AND FACILITIES THAT THE USSR IS PREPARED TO GRANT ANY OTHER COUNTRY.

B. CHARTERS AND SHIPPERS IN THE USSR WILL BE ABLE TO USE JAMAICAN SHIPS TO SHIP GOODS FROM RUSSIAN PORTS TO THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES.

C. BOTH COUNTRIES HAVE AGREED TO GRANT THE VESSELS OF EACH OTHER NATIONAL TREATMENT IN CERTAIN CASES OF EMERGENCY. IF A JAMAICAN SHIP RUNS AGROUND OR IS SHIPWRECKED OFF THE COAST OF THE USSR, THE USSR WILL GIVE SUCH ASSISTANCE TO THE SHIP, ITS CREW AND PASSENGERS AS IT WOULD GIVE TO ITS OWN VESSELS.

D. A JOINT JAMAICA/USSR COMMISSION WAS ESTABLISHED TO IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT AND PROMOTE SHIPPING ACTIVITY.

4. ACCORDING TO MR. TULLOCH, THE TWO TEAMS DISCUSSED AND EXPLORED POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION ON A JOINT-VENTURE BASIS IN A NUMBER OF OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USSR USING JAMAICA'S TRANSSHIPMENT PORT AS A FEEDER SERVICE TO OTHER PARTS OF THE CARIBBEAN; THE POSSIBILITY FOR COOPERATION IN SHIPPING BAUXITE AND SUGAR FROM JAMAICA TO THE UNITED STATES; THE TRAINING OF JAMAICAN SEAMEN AND

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OFFICERS BY THE USSR.

5. COMMENT: A. WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SHIPPING AGREEMENT WAS HEAVILY PUBLICIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THE SUNDAY PRESS, WE BELIEVE IT WILL HAVE ONLY MINIMAL IMPACT ON JAMAICA'S ECONOMY. THE AMOUNT OF TRADE BETWEEN JAMAICA AND THE SOVIET UNION IS QUITE SMALL, HENCE THE IMPACT ON JAMAICAN SHIPPING WILL BE VERY LIMITED. WHILE THE USE OF JAMAICA'S TRANSSHIPMENT PORT MAY BE USEFUL TO THE SOVIET UNION, CUBA APPEARS TO OFFER MUCH GREATER ATTRACTIONS WITH ITS BULK LOADING FACILITIES AND TWO DEEP WATER PORTS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

B. GIVEN JAMAICA'S URGENT NEED FOR MASSIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, SOVIET AID HAS BEEN ON A VERY LIMITED SCALE SO FAR. AS REPORTED IN REFTELS, SUCH ASSISTANCE CONSISTS FOR THE MOST PART IN HELPING WITH THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CEMENT FACTORY, GEOLOGICAL PROSPECTING FOR HARD MINERALS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE PERSONNEL TRAINING CENTERS. TRADE AGREEMENTS SIGNED INCLUDE THE SALE OF SOVIET MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT AND THE "IDENTIFICATION" OF CERTAIN COMMODITIES THAT JAMAICA MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPORT TO THE SOVIET UNION. GIVEN JAMAICA'S URGENT

NEED FOR HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE,
THAT OFFERED BY THE SOVIET UNION SO FAR, WHILE HEAVILY
PUBLICIZED, APPEARS PALTRY.

C. YET, THE POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED THAT THE
SOVIET UNION MIGHT STEP UP ITS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
IN THE FUTURE. IT OPENED AN EMBASSY IN KINGSTON LAST YEAR;
A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR WILL SOON BE APPOINTED; AND THERE HAS
BEEN A DEFINITE INCREASE IN DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS IN RECENT
MONTHS.
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